

Appl. No.: 10/723,956
Reply to Office Action of: April 26, 2005

Remarks

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 15-18 have been withdrawn, claims 1-14 are rejected and claims 1, 10, and 11 are objected to.

Election

The Examiner has issued a restriction to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-14, drawn to a tape for advancing a component carrying tape.
- II. Claims 1, 15-18, drawn to a pull-off wheel for removing a cover tape.

Applicant affirms the election made by the undersigned attorney on March 30, 2005, with the understanding that upon the allowance of a linking claim, the restriction requirement shall be withdrawn.

Claims Objections

Claims 1, 10 and 11 are objected to because of informalities wherein the limitation "disk" should be changed to --disc--. Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 have been corrected. Claim 10 has been cancelled. Similar corrections to the Specification are submitted.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner points to the limitation "the worm gear" in line 3 of claim 2 and indicates that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation. Applicant contends that sufficient antecedent basis is provided in line 1 of claim 2 which recites "a worm gear". No further amendment to claim 2 is presented. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-11, 13, and 14, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Boss, et al., (U.S. 5,024,720). The Examiner contends that Boss, et al., discloses the elements of

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these claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 10 directed to two rings of lines on the encoder disc wherein the first ring has a line spacing corresponding to the pitch of the component-carrying tape and the second ring has a line spacing less than the pitch of the component-carrying tape. Boss, et al., does not teach nor suggest such elements and therefore claim 1 is patentably distinct. Although Boss, et al., describes in column 5 beginning at line 51 that a plurality of bars which are optically scanned may be provided in place of the apertures 50 on the driving wheel 40, it does not teach nor suggest two rings of lines having dissimilar spacings. Although Boss, et al., describes at column 5, line 54 that in addition, the teeth of the peripheral gear rim can be optically or electrically scanned, nowhere does it suggest that two rings of lines having different spacing be included on the encoder disc. Claim 1 is therefore distinct and allowable over the Boss, et al., reference. Likewise, the claims that depend from claim 1, namely 2-11, 13 and 14 are allowable for the same reasons. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Liebeke (WO 02/080643 A1). Once again, the Examiner asserts that Liebeke discloses the elements of these claims. Since the elements of claim 10, not included in this rejection have been incorporated into claim 1, the rejection of these claims as being anticipated by Liebeke is therefore moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liebeke. Considering the amendments to claim 1 as described above, this rejection is also rendered moot since Liebeke does not teach nor suggest the elements cancelled claim 10 which have been added to claim 1.

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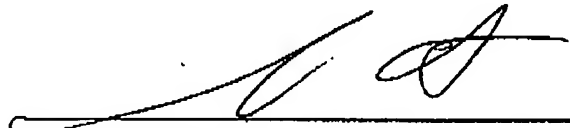
New claims 19- 21 are presented for Examination.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayments associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,



Salvatore Anastasi
Registration No. 39,090
Attorney for Applicant
Phone: 610-722-3899
Facsimile: 610-889-3696

PTO Customer No.: 29450